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## **Amendments to the Claims**

*This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:*

Listing of claims:

1-51. (Canceled)

52. (Currently amended) A short interfering RNA (siRNA) molecule having a sense strand and an antisense strand that mediates RNA interference, wherein:

(a) each strand is between 18 and 27 nucleotides in length;

(b) the sense strand comprises 10 or more 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl, or 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, or universal base modified nucleotides, and a terminal cap molecule at the 3'-end, the 5'-end, or both 3' and 5'-ends of the sense strand; and

~~(b)~~(c) the antisense strand comprises 10 or more 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl and, 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro, or universal base modified nucleotides.

53. (Currently amended) The siRNA molecule of claim 452, wherein 10 or more pyrimidine nucleotides of the sense strand, the antisense strand, or both the sense and antisense strands are 2'-deoxy, 2'-O-methyl, or 2'-deoxy-2'-fluoro nucleotides.

54. (Currently amended) The siRNA molecule of claim 452, wherein the sense strand comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

55. (Currently amended) The siRNA molecule of claim 452, wherein the antisense strand comprises 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 phosphorothioate internucleotide linkages.

56. (Currently amended) A composition comprising the siRNA molecule of claim 452 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.